

NATIVITY SCENE NARRATIVES

PART III

“OUTSIDERS”



“And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” — Luke 2:10-11 (ESV)

Valley Grace Brethren Church of Armagh, PA
December 18th, AD 2022

The LORD'S Day

The Eighteenth Day of December, *in the Year of our Lord 2022*

Welcome to the worship services of Valley Grace Brethren Church!

Sunday School—9:30 AM.



This week, we depart from our normal studies and revisit our fun and informative **Christmas Quiz**. This study is designed to underline the distinct purposes that each Gospel writer had in relating his particular narrative.

Morning Worship—10:30 AM.

Call to Worship:* *“Go, Tell it on the Mountain”* (#127: chorus only).

Invocation.*

Hymn: *“While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks”* (#135).

Prayer for Tithes & Offerings.

Scripture Reading: [Luke 2:8-20](#).

Prayer, Praises, & Testimony.

Special Music: [Anna Mason & Nevaeh Beach](#): *“Away in a Manger.”*

Announcemnts.

Hymn: *“Silent Night”* (#122).

Dismissal of Youth for Children’s Church.

Greeting One Another.

Message: *“Nativity Scene Narratives: Outsiders—The Shepherds.”*

Closing Hymn:* *“Go, Tell it on the Mountain”* (#127; all verses).

Benediction.*



**The Congregation will please arise, if able.*



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Downloadable audio mp3 messages at archive.org (@reesetpje)

Also check out our YouTube Channel (search "Terry Reese")!



Week of Dec. 11 - Dec. 17

Sunday School—8; Morning Worship—19

Midweek Prayer—4; Church Offering—\$907.⁰⁰

Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study—6:30 PM.

We continue our studies on Belshazzar's Feast of Folly (**Dan. 5**).

Christmas Services



Our special candlelight **Christmas Eve Service** will be on Saturday evening, **Dec. 24**, at **7:00 PM**. Please invite friends to share in the worship of our wonderful Savior and in the warmth of traditional carols, special readings, and in the glow of our collective Christian fellowship.

On **Christmas Day, Sunday, Dec. 25**, we will forgo our usual Sunday School session and have our morning worship service one half hour early at **10:00 AM**.



Today's Verse for Reflection:

"And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth."—Isaiah 49:6 (KJV)

A LETTER OF CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

I found an old Christmas Letter from Dr. John C. Whitcomb addressed unto the Conservative Grace Brethren, dated Dec. 15, 2016. This letter succinctly reminds us of the basic facts as to WHY we celebrate!

Dear Friends,



At this Christmas season, Christians all over the world are celebrating a spectacular event about 2,000 years ago in a small village near Jerusalem. The Creator of the entire universe became a permanent member of the human race (John 1:3, Colossians 1:16). Why did God's one and only Son do this? It was to represent us on a cruel cross of wood for three hours of infinite suffering so that all who believe in Him might have everlasting life (John 19:30, John 3:14-17). Now the big question: How could God's eternal Son become a human being? Answer: By entering the body of a woman whose name was Mary. When God told her that this would happen, she replied: *"How can this be since I am a virgin?"* (Luke 1:34). The answer was astounding, and is recorded by Luke, the highly respected historian (Luke 1:1-40) and "beloved physician" (Colossians 4:14): *"The Holy Spirit [the third Person of the triune Godhead] will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God... For nothing will be impossible with God"* (Luke 1:35-37). Please note here the ultimate marvel: the reason why her child would be *"holy"* (i.e., without a sin nature) is not because she was holy – for Mary confessed her need of a Savior (Luke 1:47; cf. 11:28; 18:19) – but because the Holy Spirit would *"come upon"* her and *"overshadow"* her. The stupendous miracle of the incarnation – a divine Person adding a true human nature to His personhood without becoming two persons – was essential for our salvation. Jesus Christ was not just a man, not even a sinless man like Adam before his fall, but one Person who was both God and man. Therefore He was fully capable of paying for the sins of the entire human race when He died upon a cross. *"For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete"* (Colossians 2:9-10). May He be honored in each of our hearts – perhaps as never before – during this Christmas season!—Dr. John C. Whitcomb